

Sisters of the Society
of St. Margaret 1052

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Sisters' coming

Order of nuns plan to make Duxbury home

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DUXBURY — For the Sisters of the Society of St. Margaret, Duxbury has been their home away from home for nearly 100 years. Soon it will be their home.

The order announced plans to sell its Boston property and make Duxbury its permanent residence. The Sisters plan to build a nine-bedroom facility to house nine nuns on their Harden Hill property.

According to a press release, the order currently owns a 38,000 square foot building in Roxbury. Keeping that building operating has become too expensive. It is currently home to 17 nuns, and it's "a lot of house" according to Sister Adele Marie.

She declined to say how much it costs to maintain the Roxbury building or its sale price.

The Society's ministry in Haiti was also a factor in the decision to move. Their convent and other buildings in that country were destroyed in last year's earthquake. They are still working to raise the funds to rebuild there. Spokesman Tricia Lederer said the earthquake has forced the Society to assess how it could best spend its resources, and the Sisters didn't see maintaining the Roxbury building as a good use of their funds. The Roxbury convent is "more than we can afford," Sister Adele Marie said.

Haiti, "served as a catalyst," she said. "We feel compelled to support the ministry we do in Haiti."

Over the past 20 years, the Society has worked to winterize some of the buildings in Duxbury, Sister Adele Marie said.

While the new building is being constructed, some members of the order will stay in existing buildings in Duxbury. A total of 12 sisters will even-



STAFF PHOTO/MATTHEW NADLER

The Sisters of St. Margaret plan on making their retreat on Harden Hill Road their permanent home.

Nuns plan to build new home

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tually live in town, while three will remain in a rented apartment in Boston to continue the order's ministry there.

The Sisters of St. Margaret is an Episcopal Religious Order and one person who's looking forward to the Sisters making Duxbury their permanent home is the Rev. Roy Tripp of St. John the Evangelist. He said he was excited for their coming and noted his church had a "loose affiliation"

with the Sisters over the years. The nuns occasionally worship at St. John, he said. "They're an incredible society of nuns," he said. "And I'm very excited about what this will mean for them, Duxbury and us at St. John."

The Sisters are working with Saltonstall Architects to design the new building. According to a press release they are "committed to minimizing the impact of the project on neighboring properties." The plan is to design the

new building so it's in keeping with the existing structures on the site. They also want the new building to be energy efficient. To make room for it, they will be relocating one of the existing buildings to a new location on the property.

Duxbury Building Inspector Scott Lambiase says the order shouldn't have too many hurdles to jump through to get their project underway. He said the property is zoned residential, so

there's no need for them to go before either the Planning Board or the Board of Appeals. They likely will have to go before the Board of Health at some point. They may also have to file with the Conservation Commission. An official plan hasn't been filed yet, he said.

The Sisters plan to present their plan to the Board of Selectmen at the end of March, Sister Adele Marie said.